

**AT-A-GLANCE – HIGHLIGHTS**  
**THE LEGACY OF VERMONT’S SENATOR PATRICK LEAHY**

*A son of Vermont, born and raised in Montpelier, Patrick Leahy is an eight-time U.S. Senator. Never having lost a campaign, his name has appeared on the ballot in Vermont 24 times in runs for the U.S. Senate and for State’s Attorney. A 1961 graduate of St. Michael’s College in Winooski, and of the Georgetown University Law Center (1964), he has been married to Marcelle Pomerleau Leahy, a native of Newport, Vermont, and a Registered Surgical Nurse, for nearly 60 years. Together, they raised three children in both Vermont and Washington, and have throughout maintained the Leahy family home, a tree farm in Middlesex, Vermont. He is the longest serving U.S. Senator in Vermont history, the fourth longest serving U.S. Senator in American history, and has cast nearly 16,950 votes in the Senate. An avid and accomplished photographer, Leahy also has appeared in major motion pictures featuring his favorite super hero, Batman.*

**A LEGACY THAT SPANS DECADES**

**Senate Service:**

- Chairman or Ranking Member, Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee – 1987-1997
- Chairman or Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee – 1997-2017
- Chairman or Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the State Department and Foreign Operations – 1989-2021
- Chairman or Vice Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee – 2017-present
- Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee Subcommittee on Intellectual Property – 2021-present
- President Pro Tempore, United States Senate – 2013-2015, 2021-present
- Co-Chair, Senate National Guard Caucus
- Co-Chair, Congressional Internet Caucus

**Named Legislative Achievements:**

- Leahy Law (the foremost tool used in promoting human rights abroad)
- Leahy War Victims Fund
- Leahy-Smith America Invents Act
- Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program

**VERMONT’S SEAT AT THE TABLE**

*On the Appropriations Committee, which he now chairs, Patrick Leahy has given Vermonters a center seat at the table as national priorities are debated and enacted in the 12 annual Appropriations bills.*

- Has steered billions of dollars in federal investments to Vermont -- most recently, in the drafting of this year’s COVID relief bills, where he successfully pressed for inclusion of small-state-minimums to ensure that Vermont’s needs are met
- When Tropical Storm Irene struck Vermont, made sure that federal agencies worked closely with Vermonters, and more than \$500 million was provided to help Vermont rebuild and Vermonters restore their lives.
- Has secured annual funding for the iconic Lake Champlain, and for a wide range of other Vermont priorities, from resources to address the opioid epidemic, to restorative justice initiatives to innovative approaches, to supporting the Vermont dairy industry, to adding more than 140,000 acres to the Green Mountain National Forest

**SUPPORTING VERMONT’S AG INDUSTRY THROUGH DAIRY, ORGANICS,  
VALUE-ADDED FARM PRODUCTS, AND HUNGER POLICY**

*As a chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee he has brought many ‘born-in-Vermont’ ideas into nationwide policy and programs.*

- Recognized as the ‘father’ of the national organic standards and labeling program
- Leader in the work to create and fund the Farm to School program

- Longtime leader on conservation and environmental issues, including forest legacy and conservation
- Co-author of the first ‘Green Farm Bills,’ which made the nation’s farmers into partners in meeting conservation goals

### **SOWING SEEDS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND JOB CREATION**

*Senator Leahy’s ongoing priority is building Vermont’s economy, tackling its economic challenges, and helping to create new jobs.*

- Helped to establish the Northern Border Regional Commission, bringing millions in economic development grants to Vermont and neighboring states
- Directed funding to the Northeast Kingdom through a special federally designated Rural Economic Area Partnership Zone (REAP) that prioritizes applications for federal funding
- Partnered with Vermont communities in funding grassroots economic development projects and completing an award-winning program that has renewed and conserved several of Vermont’s historic downtowns
- Directed seed funding and capital for the Vermont Center for Emerging Technologies incubator (VCET) to help entrepreneurs build their companies and employ Vermonters
- Organized the annual Vermont Women’s Economic Opportunity Conference, where more than 3000 Vermont women have gathered to learn and hone skills for business success
- Made sure that Vermont firms have an equal playing field for federal contracts
- Persistently promoted Vermont’s products and tourism, including through the annual Taste of Vermont in Washington, D.C.

### **DEFENDER OF CIVIL RIGHTS, VOTING RIGHTS, THE PUBLIC’S RIGHT TO KNOW, AND PRIVACY**

*As a longtime Chairman or Ranking Democrat of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and now as the Committee’s most senior member, he has long led on civil rights, voting rights and privacy issues.*

- Author of the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, to remedy two Supreme Court decisions that have decimated the 1965 Voting Rights Act
- Author of the Innocence Protection Act – the foremost death penalty reform in a generation -- which has widened the use of DNA evidence to exonerate the innocent and convict the guilty
- Longtime leader in expanding the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), strengthening the Crime Victims Fund, and eliminating the scourge of human trafficking
- Has participated in the confirmation hearing of every justice currently serving on the Supreme Court
- Longtime proponent of legislation to strengthen the Freedom Of Information Act, the nation’s premier transparency law, and an inductee into the FOIA Hall of Fame; recipient of the John Peter Zenger Press Freedom Award
- Author of the Leahy-Smith American Invents Act, making the first reforms to the nation’s patent system in more than half a century

### **BRINGING VERMONT VALUES TO INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

*Leahy has long been regarded as the Senate’s foremost leader in the Senate on human rights issues in U.S. foreign policy.*

- Author of legislation to ban the export of anti-personnel landmines – the first such ban in the world -- which was the impetus for an international treaty to ban them.
- The Leahy Law, which bars U.S. foreign aid support to units of foreign militaries that violate the rights of their citizens, has become the leading tool in the U.S. toolkit for enforcing human rights norms.
- The Leahy War Victims Fund is used by USAID throughout the world to help civilians maimed by landmines and other weapons of war.
- Longtime advocate for improving relations with Cuba and Vietnam, working with Democratic and Republican administrations to change the Cold War policies towards Cuba as well as restore diplomatic relations and support post war legacy programs in Vietnam